

Common Intake Update September 6, 2008

News and Information for EOHHS Virtual Gateway Common Intake
Users submitting Food Stamp Applications



Change in Asset Requirements for DTA Food Stamp Program Asset Requirement Eliminated for Most Households

As of June 9, 2008, the Department of Transitional Assistance has eliminated the asset test for Food Stamp Program (FS) eligibility for most applicants. This change will have a positive impact on many vulnerable Massachusetts households, particularly households with elderly and disabled members, by further simplifying the application process.

Effective immediately the asset-related screens have been removed from the Virtual Gateway FS application. Asset questions have also been removed from the FS screening tool.

IMPORTANT: If seeking expedited service, all FS households must continue to be asked about assets to determine if the household qualifies, although proof of asset information will not be required. In addition, certain households will still be required to provide asset information and proofs including:

- Members disqualified for fraud or failure to comply with FS Program rules.
- Elder (age 60 or over) or disabled households with gross income over 200% of the poverty level.

DTA staff will identify these households as part of the application process.

<u>Assistance Unit Size</u>	<u>200% of Federal Poverty Level</u>
1	\$1734
2	2334
3	2934
4	3534
5	4134
6	4734
7	5334
8	5934
For each additional member	Add 600

Several FS only questions have also been removed from the FS application:

- The question about residing in MA has been removed. DTA staff will now verify that the applicant lives in the Commonwealth.
- The question about domestic violence has been removed. DTA staff will now inform applicant households about available Domestic Violence services as many applicants are reluctant to disclose this information.
- Questions about household borders and foster care situations have been removed. DTA staff will now explain and explore these situations with the applicant household.

Food Stamps questions or comments? Please call us at 1-866-950-FOOD